Hazard Inspections Begin May 15. Defensible Space is Required by Law!

All properties in Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) areas are required to maintain Defensible Space at all times during fire season. Please complete Defensible Space no later than May 15, and maintain regularly. Fire inspectors will visit properties beginning in mid-May and may leave notices if violations are found. Defensible Space is required by law, even if you do not receive a violation notice. Violation notices must be corrected within 30 days. For questions, email defensiblespace@kentfieldfire.org

Wildfire Preparations Checklist

Defensible Space (see inside for detailed requirements)
- 100’ (or to your property line) of Defensible Space is required by law. Additional space may be required on large properties.
- Create a buffer zone around your home by removing grass, weeds, brush, and dead all vegetation.
- Create space between plants, trim trees 6-10’ above ground.
- See additional requirements inside...

Evacuation, Including Roads and Driveways
- Owners are responsible to maintain vegetation on their property to keep roads, driveways, and routes clear.
- Emergency vehicles need 12’ width & 14’ vertical clearance.
- Coordinate & help neighbors, especially elderly and disabled.
- Leave immediately when ordered, or if you feel unsafe.

Hardening your home
- Make an ember resistant home with design and materials.
- Keep balconies and decks clean. Embers will ignite debris, combustible surfaces, and undersides of decks.
- Roofs are most vulnerable surface when embers can land. Use gutter guards and keep free of leaves and needles at all times.
- Embers enter the attic & crawlspaces through vents. Screen vents with baffles and 1/8” or finer wire mesh.
- Seal gaps with weatherstripping or caulk to keep embers out.
- See inside for additional details...

Fire Resistant Plants

Choose only fire resistant plants, and remove or avoid fire prone (pyrophytic) plants. Remember that all plants can burn if they are not properly irrigated or poorly maintained.

Ground Covers
- Carpet Bugle
- Common Thift
- Snow-in-Summer
- Creeping Coprosma
- White Trailing Ice-plant
- Roses Ice Plant
- Winter Creeping
- Beach Aster
- Beach Strawberry
- Wood Strawberry
- Bush Ice Plant
- Evergreen Candytuft
- Giant Turf Lily
- Ivy Geranium
- Common Lippia
- Alpine Cinquefoil
- Green Lavender
- Cotton
- Stonecrop
- Blue chalksticks
- Creeping Thyme
- Perennial Verbena
- Azaelas
- Creeping Red Fescue Blueberry
- Evergreen Candytuft
- Privet, Glossy Privet
- Bird of Paradise
- Creeping Mahonia
- Angel's Trumpet
- Bush Anemone
- Breath of Heaven
- Bush Morning Glory
- Coreopsis
- Escallonia
- Lavata
- Lavender
- Malva Rose (Tree Mallow)
- Catalina Cherry
- Pomegranate
- India Hawthorn
- Rhododendron
- Shrub and Hedges
- English Laurel
- Creeping Mahonia
- Alca Palm Tree
- Yucca
- Lavander Cotton
- +20 more online!
- Trees
- Maple
- Strawberry Tree
- Carob
- Western Redbud
- Mountain Ironwood
- Ginko
- Beech
- Pineapple Guava
- Ash
- Macadamia Nut
- New Zealand Kmas
- Chinese Pistache
- African Sumac
- Oaks (all varieties)
- +20 more online!

Mulches
- Use only compost or heavy bark or wood chip mulches greater than 1/2” diameter. Fire bark or shredded redwood mulch is highly combustible and ignites easily from embers.

- Bandana, N95 respirator, goggles, leather gloves
- Water bottles and food
- Map marked with two evacuation routes (if possible)
- Prescription medications
- Change of clothing
- Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses
- Extra set of car keys, credit cards, cash
- First aid kit
- Flashlight and headlamp with spare batteries
- Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- Sanitation supplies
- Copies of important docs (birth certificates, passports, insurance policies, etc)
- Pet food and water, leashes, pet supplies and medications
- Spare chargers for cell phones, laptops, etc.
- Personal data and digital information backups on hard drives and/or disks
- Items to take only if time allows:
  - Easily carried valuables
  - Family photos and other irreplaceable items
  - Personal items

Register contact numbers for all family members so they'll receive warning when emergencies threaten your community. Practice evacuation drills regularly!
**Structures: 0'-10’**

Embark on your home’s biggest threat! Small details here make a big difference in protection.

Remove all objects and fuels that can ignite and protect openings where embers can enter.

Even a small handful of leaves or needles in a gutter, on your roof, at the base of a wall, or on a deck may be enough to ignite your home. Don’t forget the undersides of decks.

Remember to repeat regularly in autumn when leaves are falling, and fire season is at its worst.

**The First 10 Feet is Critical**

The area closest to your home, driveway, and nearby roads is critical. Start at your roof and work outwards, being sure to keep all surfaces of your home and other structures free of leaves and debris.

Remove dead grasses, weeds, plants, & foliage.

2. Remove dead or dry leaves and needles from roof, gutters, decks, porches, and stairways.

3. Remove all fallen leaves, needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches. Up to 3” of leaf litter may be permitted where erosion control is an issue.

4. Trim trees to remove limbs 6’ to 10’ from the ground.

5. Remove branches that hang over your roof and 10 feet from chimneys.

6. Relocate exposed firewood or lumber piles outside of Zone 1 unless they are covered.

**Zone 1: 0’-30’**

Zone 1 extends 30 feet out from buildings, decks, and other structures. Keep this area “Lean, Clean, and Green,” and repeat regularly during fire season!

Reduce fuel for fire and separate trees and shrubs in this area. Remove dead vegetation regularly.

**Zone 2: 30’-100’**

Zone 2 is the space from 30 to 100 feet from buildings, decks, and other structures. These zones make up the 100’ of Defensible Space required by law.

Remove all objects and fuels that can ignite and protect openings where embers can enter.

Remember to repeat regularly during fire season.

**These zones make up the 100’ of Defensible Space required by law**

- **1. Remove all dead grasses, weeds, plants, & foliage.**
- **2. Remove dead or dry leaves and needles from roof, gutters, decks, porches, and stairways.**
- **3. Remove all fallen leaves, needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches.**
- **4. Trim trees to remove limbs 6’ to 10’ from the ground.**
- **5. Remove branches that hang over your roof and 10 feet from chimneys.**
- **6. Relocate exposed firewood or lumber piles outside of Zone 1 unless they are covered.**
- **7. Remove combustible plants and shrubs near windows.**
- **8. Remove combustible vegetation and items around and under decks and awnings.**
- **9. Clear vegetation around fences, sheds, outdoor furniture, play structures.**
- **10. Irrigate plants within 30’ of structures, and choose only fire resistant species.**
- **11. Outbuildings and LPG storage tanks must have 10’ clearance to bare mineral soil.**
- **12. Maintain regularly, focusing on the areas closest to the structure.**

**Hardening Your Home**

Embers are the most significant cause of home ignitions during wildfires. “Hardening” your home to protect from embers is critically important, and can be as simple as retrofitting vents, sealing gaps and openings, and weatherstripping doors. Look for any gaps more than 1/8” as a potential entry point for embers.

**Attachments**

Wood fences, gates, and other structures should not be attached directly to the house. Consider using fire resistant materials instead, such as steel, aluminum, or masonry. Protect all attachments by removing all vegetation and other fuels within 5 feet.

**Hardening Details**

- **1. Mow grass before 10 a.m., and never on “Red Flag” days or when it’s windy or hot and dry.**
- **2. Maintain vegetation near driveways and roadways 10’ horizontally and 1/4’ vertically.**
- **3. Protect water quality. Do not clear vegetation near waterways to bare soil. Leave some low (3”) ground cover or mulch.**
- **4. You may be required to maintain vegetation that threatens a neighbor’s home even if it’s more than 100’ from your structures.** Check with your local fire department (CFC 4070.2).

**Beyond 100’ and Open Spaces**

Work with neighbors or land managers to reduce fuel on nearby properties or create fuel breaks to protect your community. Contact FIRESafe MARIN and your local fire department for help organizing your community to create a Firewise USA Site.

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2. Maintain vegetation near driveways and roadways 10’ horizontally and 1/4’ vertically.
3. Protect water quality. Do not clear vegetation near waterways to bare soil. Leave some low (3”) ground cover or mulch.
4. You may be required to maintain vegetation that threatens a neighbor’s home even if it’s more than 100’ from your structures. Check with your local fire department (CFC 4070.2).
5. Address numbers must be clearly visible from the road, with at least 4” numbers on a contrasting background. Reflective or lighted numbers are best.

**Power Equipment**

Lawn mowers, string trimmers, chain saws, grinders, welders, and tractors can all start fires if not used properly. Use caution and mow before 10 a.m. when the air is calm, cool, and moist. Spark arresters should be installed on all portable, gasline-powered equipment.

**The 1st 10 Feet is Critical**

The area closest to your home, driveway, and nearby roads is critical. Start at your roof and work outwards, being sure to keep all surfaces of your home and other structures free of leaves and debris.

Remove dead grasses, weeds, plants, & foliage.

2. Remove dead or dry leaves and needles from roof, gutters, decks, porches, and stairways.

3. Remove all fallen leaves, needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches. Up to 3” of leaf litter may be permitted where erosion control is an issue.

4. Trim trees to remove limbs 6’ to 10’ from the ground.

5. Remove branches that hang over your roof and 10 feet from chimneys.

6. Relocate exposed firewood or lumber piles outside of Zone 1 unless they are covered.

**Keep this area “Lean, Clean, and Green,” and repeat regularly during fire season!**

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- **9. Clear vegetation around fences, sheds, outdoor furniture, play structures.**
- **10. Irrigate plants within 30’ of structures, and choose only fire resistant species.**
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- **12. Maintain regularly, focusing on the areas closest to the structure.**

**Driveway & Road Clearance**

Property owners are responsible for vegetation adjacent to roads and driveways.

Clear vegetation 14’ overhead and 10’ from sides of driveways and roads in the same manner as Defensible Space Zone 1. Maintain 12’ of unobstructed pavement for passage.

1. Cut annual grasses and weeds to a maximum height of 4”.
2. Provide horizontal spacing between shrubs & trees.
3. Create vertical spacing between grass, shrubs and lower tree limbs.
4. Loose surface litter, normally consisting of fallen leaves or needles, twigs, bark, cones, small branches is permitted to a maximum of 3” depth.
5. Remove piles of dead vegetation.

**Plant and Tree Spacing**

Mature trees usually don’t need to be removed. Clear small trees, shrubs, and grasses beneath them. Remove limbs 6’-10’ above ground (or 1/3 the height of trees) to eliminate “fire ladder.”

1. Mow grass before 10 a.m., and never on “Red Flag” days or when it’s windy or hot and dry.
2. Maintain vegetation near driveways and roadways 10’ horizontally and 1/4’ vertically.
3. Protect water quality. Do not clear vegetation near waterways to bare soil. Leave some low (3”) ground cover or mulch.
4. You may be required to maintain vegetation that threatens a neighbor’s home even if it’s more than 100’ from your structures. Check with your local fire department (CFC 4070.2).
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